

REMARKS

The Official Action of 1 March 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors and informalities as requested by the Examiner at paragraph 2 of the Official Action.

The indication that claims 4 and 6 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, has been noted with appreciation. These claims have now been so rewritten and are respectfully believed to be in allowable form in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

New claims 7-9 have been added more completely to define the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the recitation in claim 7 that the pistons are cylindrical appears, for example, in original claim 1. Support for the recitations in claim 8 appears in the first three (3) lines of the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the substitute specification and in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. The drawings show that, since the pistons are disposed in the inclined bores and **not** in the central channel, fluid can **flow** through the central channel uninterrupted. Support for the recitations in claim 9 appears in the penultimate paragraph on page 3 and in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Blanchard. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the claimed invention, a rod 3 is disposed in the central straight-through channel and spring-loaded towards the lower end of the housing, but the pistons 17 are not. The housing has outer inclined first slots 10 of “dovetail” type, in which legs 11 with journals 12 are fastened, on which journals cutters 13 with hard-alloy teeth 14 are set with the possibility of rotation. Free ends 15 of the journals 12 are fixed in supports 16, installed also in the inclined first slots 10 of the housing 1 and rigidly connected with cylindrical piston 17, disposed in inclined bores 18 of the housing. The pistons have free ends 19 and sliders 20 which are secured in third holes 21 of the rod 3 with the possibility of radial movement. **Thus, every leg with a cutter is supplied by a separate cylindrical piston 17, and each of the pistons is disposed in one of the inclined bores (and not in the central channel).**

In contrast, Blanchard teaches the provision, in a reamer, of a single tubular piston rod 21 in the central channel described therein. In Blanchard, a rod (pipe or tube) 25 is set immovably in a housing. A spring 35 biases the tubular piston rod 21 toward the lower end of the housing. The tubular piston rod 21 is a single element that moves slides 8. Cutters 31 are supported on the slides 8.

Blanchard cannot be considered to anticipate the invention as defined in any of the claims because, among other things, it does not show or suggest the claimed plurality of pistons

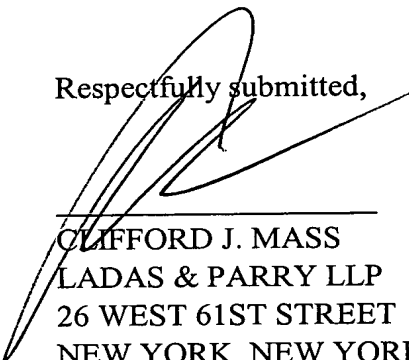
disposed in the inclined bores. As discussed above, Blanchard only teaches a single piston disposed in the central channel, not in the inclined bores.

In applying the art against the claims (paragraph 4 of the Official Action), the Examiner is apparently considering Blanchard's slides (8) to be the claimed pistons and the cutters (32) supported on spindles (31) to be the claimed legs. However, as taught by Blanchard at page 2, lines 28-36, the slides (8) are provided with the cutters (31) and this precludes the slides (8) from being construed as the claimed pistons. In the claims, the cutters are supported on the recited legs and are not provided on the recited pistons. Thus, Blanchard's slides (8) can only be construed, if at all, as corresponding to the claimed legs and not to the claimed pistons. There is nothing in Blanchard which shows a plurality of pistons within inclined bores and the reference does not anticipate the claims for this reason alone. With respect to claim 7, Blanchard's slides (8) are not cylindrical and cannot be considered to be the claimed pistons for this reason as well.

With particular respect to claim 8, Applicants respectfully note that the recitation that the components of the claimed well reamer are disposed so as to permit a flow of fluid through the central channel (i.e., uninterrupted by a piston) further distinguishes the claimed invention from Blanchard. As discussed above, Blanchard teaches the provision of its single piston rod 21 in the central channel where it would interrupt a flow of fluid.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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